

Naturalist Activities

Chain O' Lake State Park
Tom Sutton, Park Manager
2355 E 75 S
Albion IN 46701

Howard Luehrs, Naturalist
chaininterp@dnr.in.gov

Friday October 9

3pm at the Nature Center – Sticks and Stones. Sticks and stones may break my bones but... can you use sticks to build a raft to carry the stones? Come to the Nature Center as we attempt to build miniature rafts to carry a load of stones down one of our channels.

6pm from Sand Lake Boat Rental – Floating Campfire Canoe Trip. Join Howard for some night time canoeing. We'll paddle out into Sand Lake where we'll build a floating campfire to roast marshmallows. We'll supply the marshmallows; you supply the roasting sticks and any s'more fixings you'd like. Bring your own canoe/kayak or rent one of ours (\$5/hr/canoe or \$8/hr/kayak).

Saturday October 10 Appearances by Smokey Bear throughout the day. **2pm at the Nature Center – Smokey Bingo.** Here's a chance for fun and prizes! **6pm in the Campground Play Area – Smokey Challenge.** Get your Smokey on! We have a variety of challenges for you involving fire safety. Complete the challenge as a family or as an individual. You may be part of a bucket brigade, building a fire line, or any of a variety of fire safety skills.

7:30pm, at the Campground Play Area – Smokey Campfire Talk. Learn how to safely build a fire, and safely put it out. Smokey will be sure to stop by to say hi and remind us "only you can prevent wildfires".

Sunday October 11

9am 45 minute hike; meet at Dock Lake Parking Lot – Woodpecker Walk. Free coffee (while supplies last). Join us for a casual stroll down woodpecker lane. We'll be heading in to prime woodpecker habitat in search of some of the ½ dozen types of woodpeckers found in the park.

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October 16 – October 18

Friday October 16

4pm at the Nature Center – Nature Bingo. Learn some fun facts about the plants and animals of the park and enjoy a chance at winning prizes.

Saturday October 17

11am, 1-hour Walk and Talk, meets at the Nature Center. As we head downhill from the nature center, we'll begin with a discussion of beaver adaptations and take a look at a beaver pelt. Then we'll take a short hike to visit a beaver lodge and dam.

2-3pm at the Nature Center – T-Shirt Crafts. Bring a solid colored t-shirt or other piece of clothing and create your own wearable souvenir. You can choose from several nature themed projects that take about ½ hour to make.

Sunday October 18

9:30am, 30-minute hike, meeting at Dock Lake Parking Lot – Vulture Venture. Free Coffee (while supplies last). Learn some fascinating, and possibly disgusting, habits of these often misunderstood birds.

October 23 – October 25

Friday October 23

3-4pm at the Nature Center – Souvenir Session. Bring a solid colored t-shirt or other piece of clothing and create your own wearable souvenir. You can choose from several nature themed projects that take about ½ hour to make.

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Saturday October 24

11am at the Sand Lake Beach – Sand Lake Stroll. This will be a gentle, 1 hour, stroll around the park's largest lake. We'll enjoy the fall foliage and talk about how animals in the park get ready for winter.

2pm, at the Nature Center – Tea Time. Drop by for a spot of tea made from plants within the park. There will be a pot of sassafras tea going, and Howard will show you a quick way to make your own herbal teas from wild plants. Please bring your own mug.

Sunday October 25, Noon at the Nature Center – Dam Builders. We'll begin with a discussion of beaver adaptations and take a look at a beaver pelt. Then we'll take a short hike from the Nature Center to visit a beaver lodge and dam.

October 30 – November 1

Friday October 30, 6-8pm at the Nature Center – Grossology. The animals are missing from the Nature Center and it's really gross. Come see what we've cooked up for you!

Saturday October 31, All day throughout the park – All Hallow's Eve. Activities begin at noon with the firing up of the community chili pots. See the separate flyer for details on all vents.

Sunday November 1. Nature Center open from 11am-3pm, then closes for the season.